

# THROW A BLOCK PARTY

TRANSFORM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD INTO A COMMUNITY IN JUST ONE DAY!

## Reasons to Hold a Block Party

**To organize city-sponsored groups such as Neighborhood Crime Watch.**

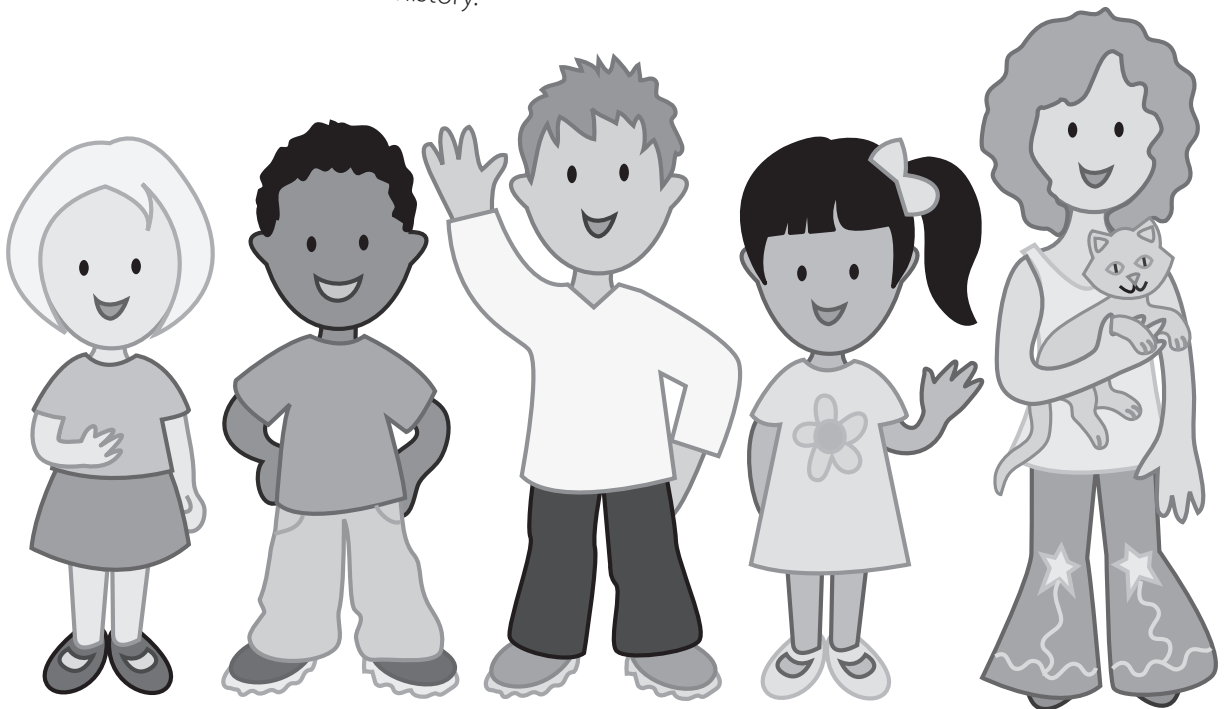
**To meet your neighbors.** The more you know who belongs to the neighborhood, the more likely you are to identify strangers or suspicious people.

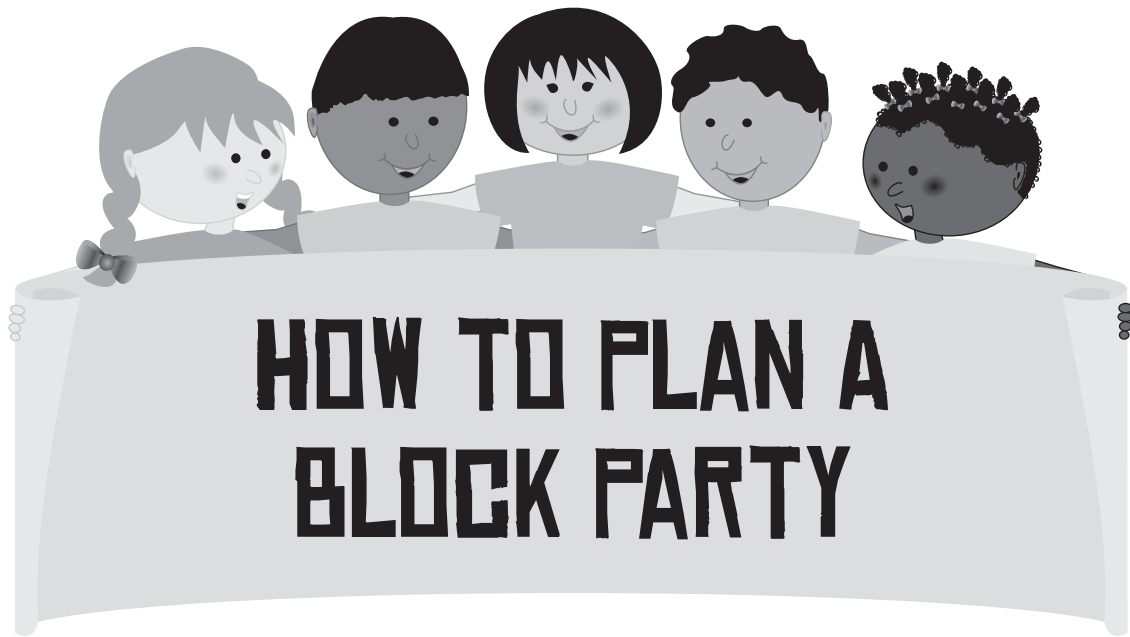
**To increase a sense of belonging in your neighborhood.**

**To make connections within the community.** When you know people, you can exchange skills or resources and perhaps organize a book club, baby-sitting co-op, share walking to school duties, or find new friends for your children.

**To meet some of the long time residents** in the neighborhood and learn about its history.

**To have fun** — no excuse or reason is needed to celebrate!





**1. Have a Planning Party.** Invite a few neighbors over to plan the party. Think of the planning process itself as an opportunity to have fun and make some lasting friendships. Try to involve neighbors you don't know well who may know other neighbors you don't know well.

**2. Choose a Location.** You may be able to close off the street in front of your block if you want to hold activities right in the street. If you want to close a street, you may need to get an appropriate permit from the city. You may also need to obtain insurance. If you want to hold the party in yards and don't want to close a street, your city may not require permits or insurance. Despite these requirements, closing the street does have the advantage of making your party feel like a true block party rather than a private event.

**3. Choose a Date.** Try to pick a date 4-6 weeks in advance to allow plenty of time for planning, notifying neighbors and obtaining your permit or insurance if needed.

**4. Decide on Food.**

**5. Decide on Activities.** You may want to include some games and activities. Some block parties occur at the end of a block cleanup, a block

garage sale, or a day of tree-planting; others have a theme such as Fourth of July or celebrating some neighborhood anniversary.

**6. Send Invitations.** Send at least a month before the party to allow people to plan and as a courtesy to neighbors with special needs (e.g. daytime sleepers, expecting deliveries) who may need to communicate with you. Invitations are most effective if they are personally delivered. You may want to put reminders under people's doormats about a week before the party.

**7. Set Up.** If you will be closing a street, your town or city may be able to deliver barricades prior to the party.

**8. Observe Neighborhood Courtesies.**

Remember to make your block party a positive experience for all of your neighbors, even if they choose not to attend. Make it easy for neighbors to get out of their driveways and through the street. Keep noise levels low after 10:00 p.m.

**9. Have Fun!**

The internet has many resources on how to hold a block party. Do a search on "how to plan a block party" and see what you get!